.,

Exhibit A

Cross-linking

Definition: The establishing of chemical links between the molecular chains in polymers. When extensive, as in most thermosetting resins, cross-linking makes one infusible supermolecule of all the chains forming a three-dimensional or network polymer, generally by covalent bonding. Thermosetting materials cross-link under the influence of heat and/or catalysis, irradiation with high-energy electron beams, or chemical cross-linking agents, such as organic peroxides.

<u>Definition Copyright @1989 CRC Press LLC. All rights reserved.</u>